ARC Partnership Opportunities for the Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT) Technology Demonstration Mission (TDM) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

Questions and Answers related to the
SourcesSought-OCTTDMBAA posted April 24, 2011
Updated 5-2-2011

Q1. *If we responded to the Sources Sought Special Notice 2011 (NNA1112345L), is it necessary to also respond to this synopsis?*

A1. Yes, specific responses to this synopsis are required. If the content submitted previously in response to NNA1112345L meets the criteria for this synopsis, the same response may be submitted by the due date to the POC listed, Rachel.Khattab@nasa.gov.

Q2. *Is this sources sought request for one proposal, or several different proposals?*

A2. Multiple proposals are being developed by ARC. This request is intended to address all proposal needs.

Q3. Is this partnership opportunity limited to nanosatellites providers or is ARC interested in responses from small satellite providers?

A3. The Sources Sought specifies two areas: spacecraft bus and payloads. Any organization can respond to one or both areas. Responses are not limited to nanosatellite providers.

Q4. Description states it is for a nanosatellite, but asks to fit on an ESPA. Description of needs seems to indicate a Microsatellite. Please provide rough envelope and mass budget for the bus.

A4. The spacecraft bus is not restricted to nanosatellites so other class spacecraft are allowed (e.g. Mini, Micro) as long as the other Spacecraft Bus Development Characteristics are met. For spacecraft mounted to an ESPA ring, the nominal mass limit for each port is 180kg with a volume envelope of 60 x 70 x 95 cm. For nanosatellites, nominal mass is 5 kg and dimensions of 10x10x30 cm.

Q5. Is the class of satellite for these desired Payload Systems limited to nanosatellites or will other satellite classes be considered?

A5. As stated in the Sources Sought text, "Payload systems include but are not limited to: multiple nanosatellite (cubesat) systems, ..." therefore other class spacecraft can be described to meet the Payload Systems Characteristics.

Q6. *Please provide rough dates/timelines for selection of successful proposals, project Kick-off and project delivery.*

A6. Organizations selected by ARC as proposal partners will be contacted the week of May 9, 2011. The proposal due dates, schedule for selection of BAA awards and other project timelines are as stated in the OCT TDM BAA NNM11ZDA001K, which is posted on NSPIRES http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/

Q7. *We would like clarification as to this statement: "organizations responding to one or more of the elements may submit up to 5 pages per each element ". Are you defining elements, in this sentence, as the Spacecraft and Bus Development Characteristics and the Payload Systems Characteristics? Or are the submittals to address the elements in the TDM BAA, the four focused technology areas: High Bandwidth Deep Space…, Orbital Debris Mitigation, Advanced In-space Propulsion and Autonomous Rendezvous…?*

In other words, are we to stick to only Spacecraft and Bus Development Characteristics and the Payload Systems Characteristics or try to incorporate ideas for the 4 focused technology areas as well?

A7. The technical areas of interest in the Sources Sought announcement are for Spacecraft Bus and Payload Systems. Responders can provide up to five pages for each of the two areas. Since the purpose of the Technology Demonstration Missions is to develop technologies in the four areas mentioned in the BAA, it would be appropriate for the responders to incorporate into their submitted documentation their ideas for relevant technologies and how they pertain to spacecraft busses and payload systems.